

Contacts:

Tim Luce
Cardenas/Fernández & Associates
312-844-7272

Mary Doherty
Philip Morris USA
212-878-2484

"DAVE VALENTIN"

BIOGRAPHY

Dave Valentin started playing Latin percussion at the age of five and began playing professionally at the age of 11. At the late age of 16 he picked up the flute for the first time. In high school (the New York City Public School System), Dave took a test for music (percussion) and art. He passed the test majoring in percussion. He then studied at the Bronx Community College majoring in Liberal Arts.

After purchasing an album recorded by Herbert Laws, he looked up his name in the Musicians Directory (Union Book), called him and asked for lessons. Mr. Laws is one of the best jazz flutists in the world. For the next six months he was Dave's mentor. He then took three months to train classically with Harold Bennett and three months of training with Harold Jones.

Dave went back to work at his old J.H.S. in an after school program called "Change Through Music". He taught Latin jazz to the inner city kids, and was able to involve gang members in this program, thus giving back to his community. He accepted a position as a full time professor teaching Latin and music for several years. His work and dedication influenced many children to continue their education. Dave feels very proud to be part of what they have accomplished, and continues to visit, talk and play with them to keep inspiring and motivating them to a higher level of education. "No matter where you come from you can rise and accomplish anything". Dave has become an extraordinary role model and feels it is up to people in his position to make a change. He accepts this challenge with open arms.

Throughout his travels in different countries and ethnic communities, Dave has collected many flutes, most of which he travels with and uses at his performances. Some of the flutes he uses are from Africa, Japan, Venezuela, Peru, Ecuador, Brazil and the American Indian. In his shows he plays them and explains the significance to the culture of origin. This gives his students and the public a much better understanding of the wonderful instruments he plays.

2070817239